

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 1-5 are being presented as a new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. The drawing Figures 1-5 have been amended. Appended to this amendment are an annotated copies of the previous drawing sheets which have been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheets of the drawings.

The specific changes which have been made to the Figures are to rotate Figures 1-3 clockwise 90°, to remove the solid black region from Figure 2, to add element 106 to Figure 4, and to present new formal drawings with smooth lines.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-20 are now pending in this application. Claims 8-14 and 16-20 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Objection to the Specification

The abstract of the disclosure has been objected to for being too short. A new abstract is attached to this response. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings have been objected to for containing informalities. The drawings have been amended to overcome these objections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In this response, Applicants have amended the claims to overcome this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,816,781 (hereafter “Bercot et al.”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Here, Bercot et al. does not disclose a duct fan adapted to be arranged in a duct comprising, among other things, a distributor having a plurality of vanes “wherein at least one

vane includes an air-discharge duct configured to discharge air from an interior of the distributor to outside of the duct,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Instead, Bercot et al. discloses a motor-driven cooling ventilator that includes a motor 1, a ventilator fan 2 disposed within a casing 3, and air guiding means 4 that are fixed to the periphery of the motor 1 and to an inside wall of the casing 3. See Bercot et al. at col. 2, lines 30-54. Bercot et al. does not disclose that the air guiding means 4 can be configured as an air-discharge duct that is configured to discharge air from an interior of a distributor to outside of the casing 3.

Therefore, Bercot et al. does not anticipate amended claim 1 because Bercot et al. does not disclose all of the features of claims 1. Claims 2-5 and 15 depend from claim 1 and are also allowable over Bercot et al. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 3-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,271,627 (hereafter “Coppus”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,397,171 (hereafter “Troller et al.”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have combined the teachings of Coppus and Troller et al. to provide the duct fan of claim 1. A basic requirement of a *prima facie* case of obviousness is that a prior art reference, or prior art references when combined, must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. See M.P.E.P. §§ 2143, 2143.03. Here, Coppus and Troller et al., alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a plurality of vanes “wherein at least one vane includes an air-discharge duct configured to discharge air from an interior of the distributor to outside of the duct,” as recited in claim 1.

Coppus discloses an induced draft blower that includes a base 1 with hollow legs 2 that are connected to a cylindrical shell 3 that surrounds a fan 4. See Coppus at col. 1, lines 44-48. Air is supplied through a pipe 19 extending through a hollow arm 2 so that the air travels through a channel 20' and a chamber 20 in the base 1, a channel 21 in an end plate 10, a bore 21' and exhaust ports 23 in a sleeve 8, openings 25 in a housing 6, and out from an annular space 26 between the housing 6 and a depending annular flange 27. See Coppus at col. 2, lines 12-42; Figures 1 and 2.

Coppus, however, does not disclose or suggest a plurality of vanes “wherein at least one vane includes an air-discharge duct configured to discharge air from an interior of the distributor to outside of the duct,” as recited in amended claim 1. Instead, Coppus discloses that air is discharged from an annular space 26 enclosed by an annular flange 27 that blades of the fan 4 are attached to, not that air is discharged through a hollow leg 2.

Troller et al. discloses a fan and motor that includes a cast structure that forms an outer annular wall 10 and a central hollow shell 14 connected to the wall 10 by a plurality of vanes 13, a fan 22, and a fan hub 20. See Troller et al. at col. 2, lines 25-55. The fan includes a duct arrangement that has an extension shell 23, a plurality of intake air ducts 25, and a cup 27. See Troller et al. at col. 3, lines 5-10. Air enters extension shells 23 through intake ducts 25, passes through an interior of the hollow shell 14, and exits to the atmosphere through the back of the hollow shell 14 and the extension shell 23. See Troller et al. at col. 3, lines 11-57, and Figure 1.

Troller et al., however, does not disclose or suggest a plurality of vanes “wherein at least one vane includes an air-discharge duct configured to discharge air from an interior of the distributor to outside of the duct,” as recited in amended claim 1, because Troller et al. instead discloses that air is discharged from the rear of a centrally located hollow shell 14 and extension shell 23, not from a vane 13.

Therefore, Coppus and Troller et al. fail to teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1. As a result, the outstanding rejection does not properly apply to independent claim 1. Claims 3-7 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over Coppus and Troller et al. for at least the same reason as claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 12/19/07

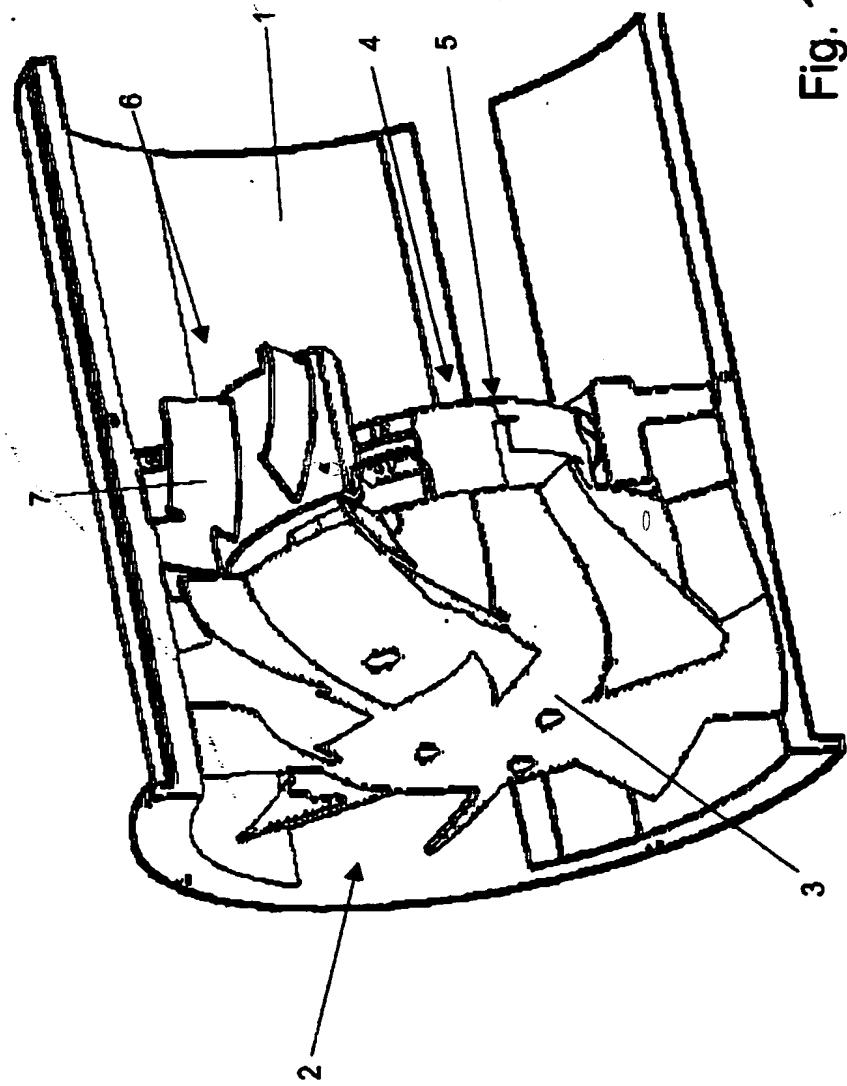
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ANNOTATED SHEET
TO SHOW
CHANGES MADE

1/4

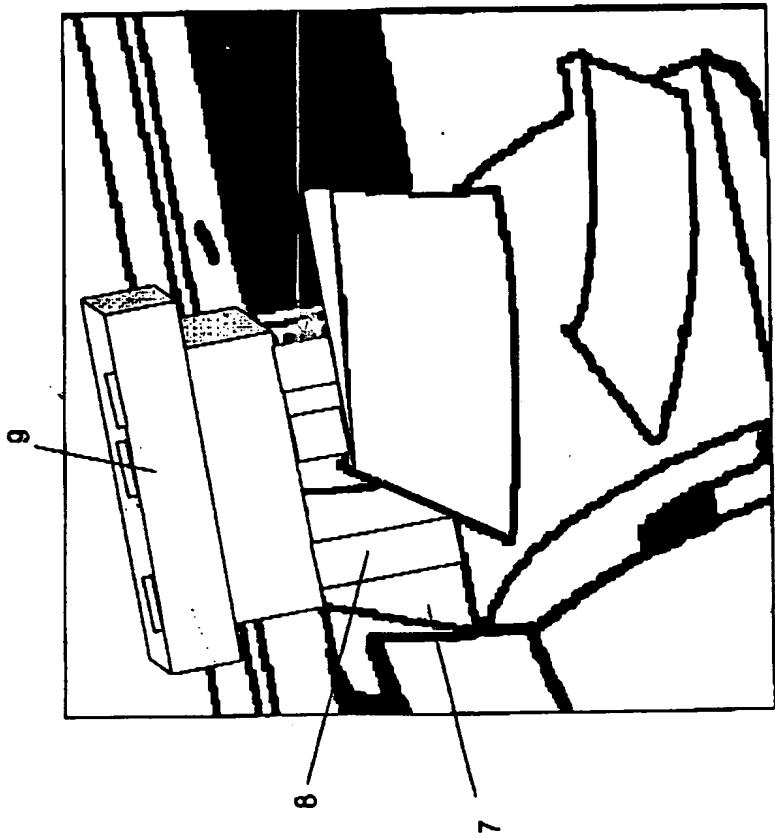


ROTATED FIGURE
CLOCKWISE 90°

ANNOTATED SHEET
TO SHOW
CHANGES MADE

2/4

Fig. 2



ROTATED FIGURE
CLOCKWISE 90°
AND REPLACED SOLID
BLACK AREAS WITH
DASHED LINES

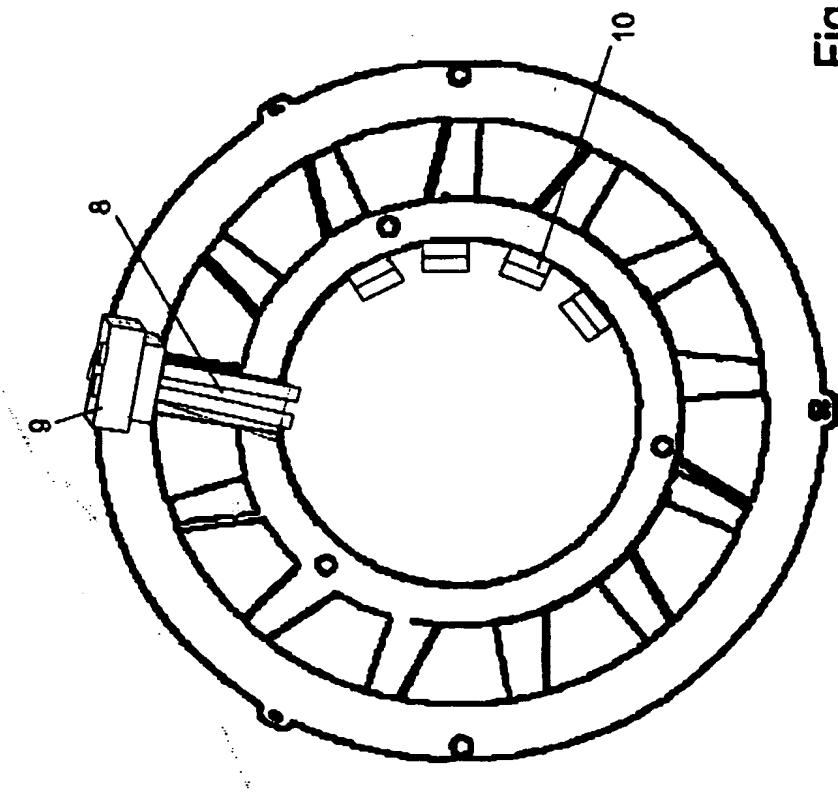


Fig. 3

ROTATED FIGURE
CLOCKWISE 90°

ANNOTATED SHEET
TO SHOW
CHANGES MADE

4/4

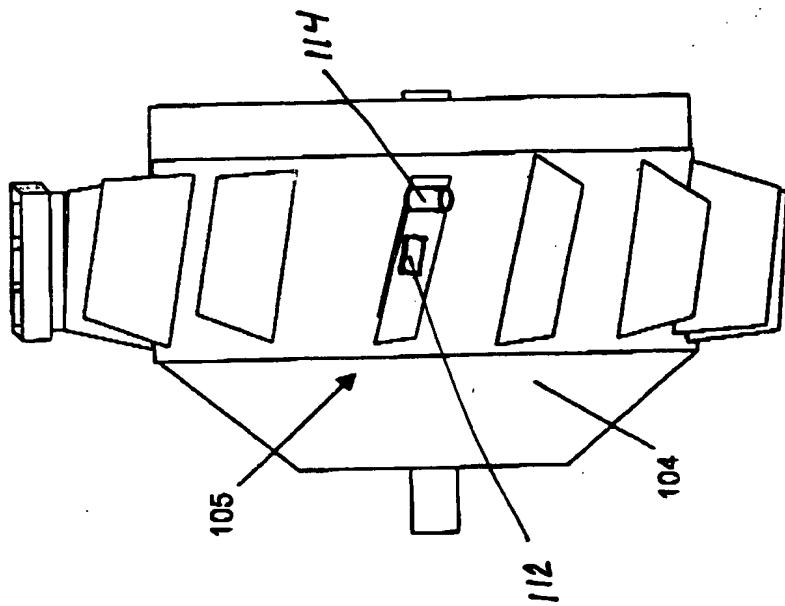


Fig. 5

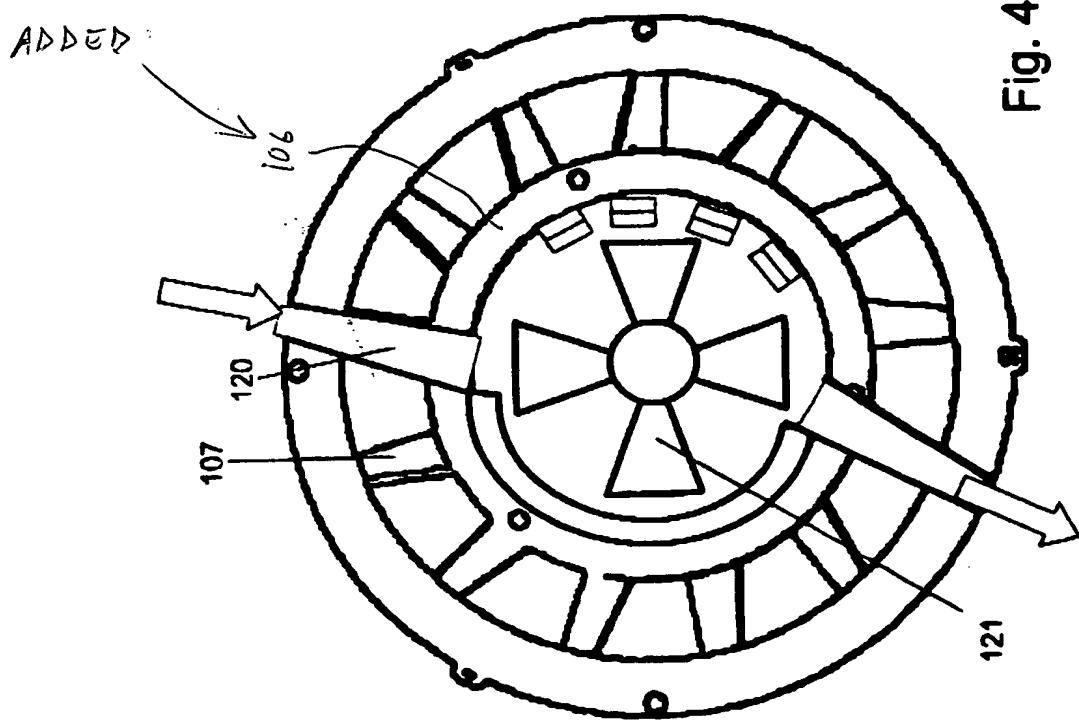


Fig. 4